



*Andrea McMahon*

## **McMahon To Implement SPEP Evaluation Tool With Goal Of Reducing Recidivism**

In Andrea McMahon's new role as director of Quality Assurance, she will lead, manage and ensure cross divisional quality assurance and fidelity of agency and statewide continuum of community-based and residential services. This includes the implementation of a validated, data-driven evaluation tool known as the Standard Program Evaluation Tool (SPEP™).

The expanded work will consist of developing a collaborative quality assurance plan with Bon Air JCC leadership as well as incorporating Virginia's Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission's recommendations to strengthen Community Placement Program programming and streamlining quality assurance activities under the auspices of one unit. Her team will provide oversight and comprehensive reviews, assessments, and reports of a statewide system of evidence-informed services and programs.

"We are honored to bring the SPEP program to Virginia, which will drive sustainable performance improvement for programs that serve our youth," Ms. McMahon says. "Using SPEP, we will be able to evaluate services based on research that will tell us how to strengthen them and make them more effective, which ultimately translates to reducing recidivism for our youth and families."

Ms. Mahon has more than 27 years of experience in the juvenile justice field. She began her career as a probation officer in Roanoke, and also worked as a probation and parole officer at DJJ's Chesterfield Court Service Unit for 10 years. She then transitioned to DJJ's Central Office where she gained experience in a variety of roles including transition services specialist, detention specialist, and interstate compact specialist. She was instrumental in creating DJJ's Central Admission and Placement (CAP) unit. In 2015, the Virginia Juvenile Justice Association award her the meritorious award in the area of residential services. She became the manager of the Quality Assurance unit in 2017.

She holds a degree in psychology and criminal justice and a master's degree in criminal justice from Radford University. She also received the Horatio Alger National Scholarship, and remains active in the association.